Missouri Population Information

Size and growth

Missouri has slipped to the nation's 17th most populous state as a result of lower than average growth. Missouri's rank among the nation's most populous states has been on the decline since the turn of the century, when the state ranked the fifth most populous. By 2000, Missouri ranked 17th.

Projections indicate that Missouri's growth will slow in the coming decades. Overall growth between 2000 and 2030 will average roughly 6 percent per decade. Census Bureau models predict the nation to grow at about 10 percent per decade. Missouri's projected rate of growth through the year 2030 will be less than was seen during the 1960s, 70s and 90s but greater than the 1930s, 1940s and 1980s. Missouri's population is expected to grow by roughly 1.2 million people over the next 30 years, a 21 percent increase, for a total population approaching 6.8 million people in 2030.

Components of change

Unlike Sunbelt states where net in-migration is the primary cause of population increase, Missouri's increases are mainly due to natural increase (births minus deaths). From 1930 to 2000, natural growth averaged about 287,000 people per decade. This growth was offset by a net out-migration of about 6,000 people per decade. However, Missouri experienced an in-migration of almost 260,000 people during the 1990s. Favoring more recent migration trends, the population projection model predicts a natural increase of approximately 732,000 people between 2000 and 2030, and net in-migration of nearly 420,000 people.

Births

For most of the last century, fertility has been the primary cause of Missouri's population increase. The total fertility rate is a measure of the average number of births women would have if a set of age-specific birth rates for a given year were applied throughout their reproductive years.

Total fertility dropped throughout the 19th Century through the years of the Great Depression. The trend reversed after World War II with the baby-boom era when the number of annual births rose to nearly 100,000 children. The fertility rate reversed again during the baby-bust or "Generation X" era from 1965 to the late 1970s. Another minor reversal, the "baby-boomlet," began in the late 1970s when births and the fertility rate rose again. However, rising births were due more to the large number of women in the childbearing age group (primarily baby-boomers) than to rising fertility.

Annual births are projected to increase from an average of 76,000 in 2000 to 2005 to an average of 82,000 in 2025 to 2030. The expected increase is the result of an increasing number of women in their childbearing years through the 2025 projection cycle.

Deaths

Increasing longevity has kept the number of deaths each year in Missouri at about the same level over the past half century despite a growing population. Life expectancy at birth has risen from 53 years in 1910 to 68 years in

1950 to 76 years in 2000. Continued improvements in maternal health care, general health habits, and treatment of heart disease should cause overall longevity to rise even higher, although recent trends suggest that some young adult populations may experience only minor gains or even decline.

The number of resident deaths in Missouri has averaged near 50,000 per year since the early 1960s. However, deaths are projected to increase due to aging baby-boomers from a yearly average of 54,000 during the 2000 to 2005 period to 59,000 in the period of 2025-2030.

Migration

For most of the last century, natural growth in Missouri has been offset by small net out-migration. However, the state experienced periods of in-migration during the 1960s, 1970s and 1990s. The migration gains of the 1960s and 1970s averaged only a few thousand people while net immigration during the 1990s hit almost 260,000 people.

The number of in-migrants is expected to peak at 82,000 in-migrants during the 2005-2010 period and slow to 54,000 in-migrants from 2025 to 2030.

Population distribution

Major changes in Missouri's age distribution for select groups occurred between 1950 and 2000 and are projected to continue through 2030.

Preschool age

The size of the under-5 age group shrank from just under 10 percent of the state's total population in 1950 to 7 percent by 2000. In numeric terms, the group dropped from 384,000 to 370,000, or 4 percent. In 2030, it is projected this age group will have increased by 13 percent, or 47,000 additional preschoolers. However, due to larger increases in Missouri's older age groupings, preschoolers are expected to represent only 6 percent of the population by 2030.

Elementary school age

The 5-13 age group increased by 183,000 children between 1950 and 2000, a 33 percent increase, for a final population of 729,000. However, the group fell from 14 to 13 percent of the total population between 1950 and 2000. This age group is projected to increase an additional 39,000 persons, or 5 percent, by 2030 to a total of 768,000. However, this group will represent only 11 percent of the total population at that time.

High school age

The 14-17 age group increased by 111,000 people between 1950 and 2000 to a total of 330,000; a 51 percent increase. However, this age group's percent of the total population remained unchanged at 6 percent in both 1950 and 2000. It is projected this group's population will increase another 12,000 people, or 4 percent, to a total of 342,000 in 2030. The group will then represent 5 percent of the total population.

College age

Between 1950 and 2000, due largely to the baby-boom, the ranks of the 18-24 age group grew by 37 percent to 535,000 people, while remaining at roughly 10 percent of the total population. This group is expected to increase an additional 13 percent to a total of just over 600,000 people. However, this group's percentage of the total population is expected to drop to 9 percent by 2030.

Younger adults

The 25-44 age group has also seen a sizable increase in population between 1950 and 2000; 495,000 people or 44 percent. This increase can again be attributed to baby-boomers moving into this age grouping during the later part of the 20th Century. Nearly one of every three Missourians, 1.6 million people, was in this age group in 2000. The group is anticipated to see a modest increase of 5 percent between 2000 and 2030 to a final population of 1.7 million persons or 25 percent of the total population at that time.

Older adults

The 45-64 age group increased 43 percent, or 374,000 people between 1950 and 2000, for a final population of 1.3 million. By 2030, this group is estimated to grow by an additional 246,000, or 20 percent, to a final population of 1.5 million. The 45-64 age group represented 22 percent of the population in 1950 and 2000 and will again in 2030.

The elderly

The elderly have increased more consistently and proportionately than any age group. People age 65 and over represented 10 percent of the population in 1950. By 2000, their ranks had risen to 13 percent of the total population, and it is estimated that by 2030 this group will represent more than one-fifth of Missourians (21 percent). Between 1950 and 2000, the 65-and-over population grew by 85 percent. This group is projected to grow by an additional 87 percent between 2000 and 2030 when their numbers are projected to swell to 1.4 million as the baby-boom generation progresses into this age category.

The increases in Missouri's elderly population, caused by increased longevity of the elderly and the baby-boom generation progressing into this age classification, likely will have the greatest impact on Missouri of any changes seen among the various age groupings.

Regional population trends

Population shifts among Missouri regions have followed similar patterns for many years. Shifts have been from rural agricultural areas to urban areas and to rural areas rich in recreational amenities. Projections show that these patterns will continue, and there will be more movement to urban fringe areas.

Missouri population by county

Recent migration trends predict the outlook for the next 30 years to be large growth in the suburban counties around Kansas City, St. Louis, and Springfield with significant decline for St. Louis County and agricultural counties. Based on the projections methodology, all of the top ten fastest-growing counties will be metropolitan counties.

Both Christian County, south of Springfield, and Lincoln County, northwest of St. Louis, should more than double in size by 2030. St. Charles County, northwest of St. Louis, is expected to grow by 76 percent. Around the Kansas City area, Cass, Clay, and Platte counties combined may grow as much as 62 percent.

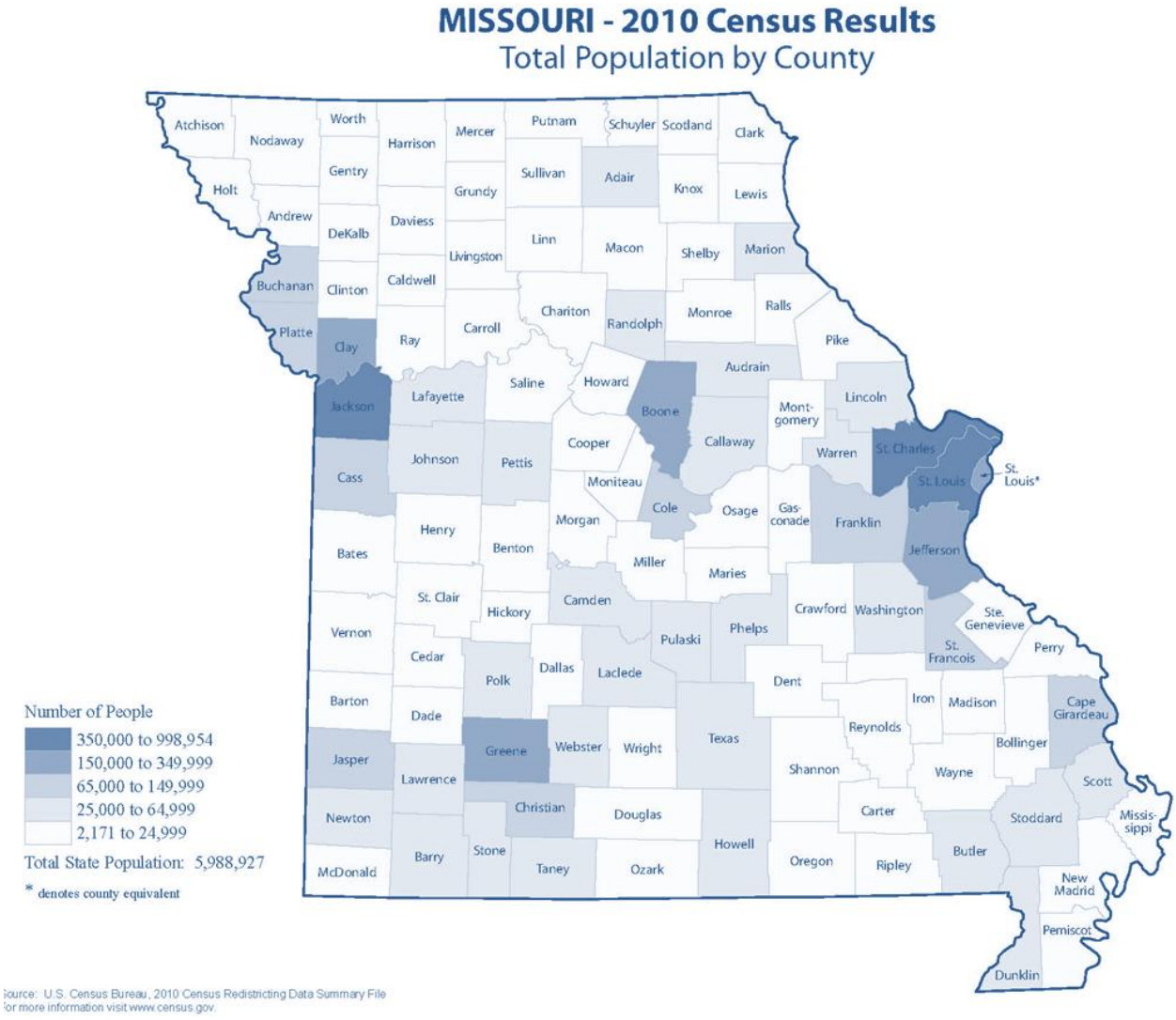
With the lone exception of St. Louis County, all 10 counties of greatest population decline are rural. New Madrid County is projected to lose more than a third of its population by 2030, and both Iron and Gentry counties could lose 30 percent. St. Louis County is projected to experience the largest numeric loss at just under 60,000 people.

Migration is the primary agent of population change in these areas of rapid growth and decline, and natural change sometimes accelerates the population shift. St. Charles County, for example, will gain 145,000 net in-migrants over the next 30 years plus an additional 70,000 people through natural growth. The situation in New Madrid County is just the opposite. New Madrid County is projected to lose just under 7,000 people through out-migration by 2030 and an additional 500 people through natural decline. Even in St. Louis County, net out-migration is projected to play the largest part in population change. In the next 30 years, St. Louis County is projected to gain nearly 90,000 people through natural change, but these gains are over shadowed by out-migration of almost 150,000.

Although St. Louis County is projected to experience slight losses over the next 30 years, it will hold its position as Missouri's most populous county. Jackson County will also hold its position as number two.

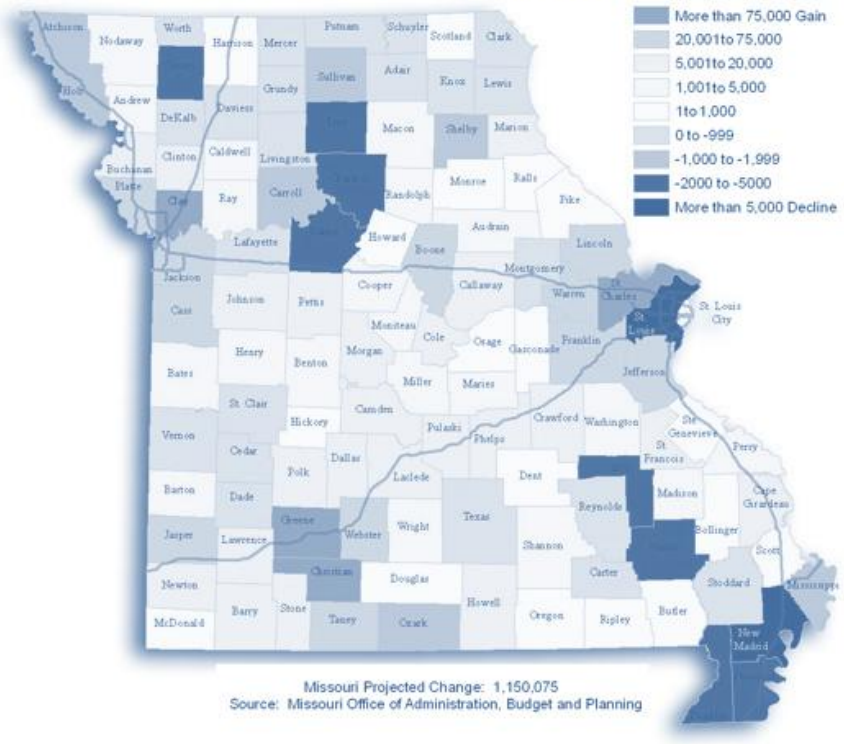
The projections used in this report have been generated using methods, inputs, and constraints which were deemed to be the most reasonable for all of Missouri's counties, as a whole. The projection model is designed to generate a reasonable expectation of what should happen to the population in each of Missouri's counties over the next 30 years based upon a series of carefully considered assumptions.

Source: Missouri Office of Administration



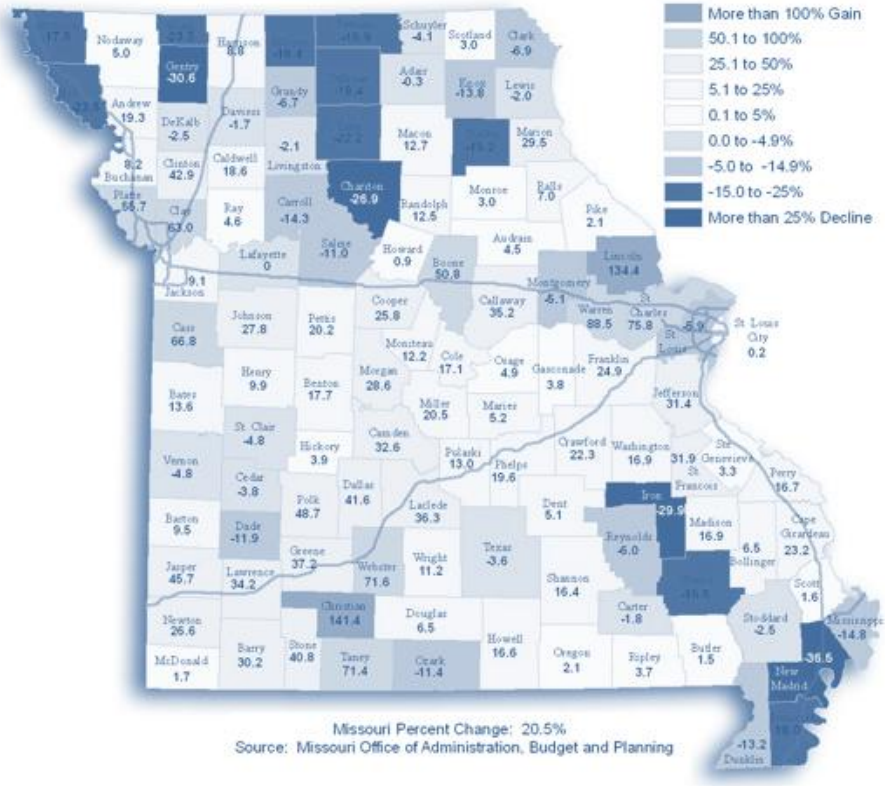
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data Summary File
For more information visit www.census.gov.

Projected Change in Population, 2000 to 2030



Missouri Projected Change: 1,150,075
Source: Missouri Office of Administration, Budget and Planning

Projected Percent Change in Population, 2000 to 2030



Missouri Percent Change: 20.5%
Source: Missouri Office of Administration, Budget and Planning